

HOMELAND DEFENSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

AREA OF INTEREST: CURRENT OPERATIONS

FY06 UFR: \$81.3M

APPN: OMNG and ANG O&M

DESCRIPTION: In order to improve the flow of data and information between National Guard units in the field, their state headquarters, and to provide timely and accurate information to NORTHCOM and other national decision makers, an enterprise wide information technology solution must be addressed. Internally, the National Guard has identified several IT initiatives that will support this interaction. Among these initiatives are efforts such as the establishment of 54 Joint Operations Centers (JOC) and Joint CONUS Communications Support Enterprise (JCCSE) teams, as well as other improvements to National Guard communication capabilities.

ISSUE JUSTIFICATION: The Joint Operations Portal (JOP) supports the NGB Joint Operations Center's (JOC) operational requirements. The JOP provides the NGB JOC immediate, significantly improved, web-based, automated capability to obtain, manage, display, and share operational information for situational awareness and development of the NGB's Common Operational Picture (COP). The creation of JOCs has resulted in joint operations-capable command and control entities available to both federal authorities and the governors for operations within each state/territory, and will help the Adjutants General provide better-prepared units and individuals for expeditionary warfare and other overseas requirements. It has also improved the timeliness, clarity and synchronization of Situational Awareness/Common Operating Picture information, in both directions, in support of Homeland Security and dynamic contingency planning for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Combatant Commanders to provide Homeland Defense (HD), Civil Support (CS) and Emergency Preparedness (EP) when federal military support must be integrated with State-controlled joint military operations. A JCCSE will be assigned to each of the 54 State Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ-State) which can respond to an incident and provide required communications capabilities needed by deployed National Guard forces at the incident site, to include interoperable wireless communications and reachback communications from the incident site to the JFHQ-State and beyond. JCCSE also provides a National Homeland Security Communications Capability, which includes a mobile (tactical) communications unit equipped with heavy tactical communications equipment capable of establishing basic communications services in an extreme circumstance whereby existing communications capabilities are damaged or destroyed. The JOC will support situational awareness, assist in development of a common operating picture, and help coordinate multi-state activities as needed. It will also provide a single "point of contact" for NORTHCOM, PACOM, and other inter-agency stakeholders to receive current and accurate information from any of the 54 states and territories. These communication capabilities are essential to timely execution of the NGB's homeland defense and civil support missions. Improved capability of the JOC to maintain situational awareness and develop a Common Operational Picture could be delayed for a year or more if the current requests are not funded.

FUNDING IMPACT: The National Guard JOC would be required to continue its current practice of using old technology (e.g. telephone calls, email, and power point slide presentations) to maintain situational awareness, develop the Common Operational Picture, and share information with the states and territories, supported commands and federal agencies if funding is

denied. The JFHQ-State's capability to manage and provide information to the NGB JOC, the "nerve center" of the NGB joint staff, would be seriously impaired, and the inability of launching a JCCSE to support deployed forces would limit situational awareness and thus consequent management. The revision of DoD Directive 3020 formally establishes the Guard Bureau's lead role in defending the homeland. This role makes 54 fully operational and functional JFHQ-State JOC (\$31.5M) and JCCSE (\$49.8M) components a must for defending the homeland.